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USSR

Ref No: S/NBF/T275

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REQUEST FOR DEFERMENT OF RECALL
HOME OF "GRIGORIJ".

From: NEW YORK

To: MOSCOW

No.: 1139

8 Aug 1944

To VICTOR[i].

Please consider the following proposal: GRIGORIJ[iii] took the announcement of his recall home calmly, but asks that he should be given an opportunity to finish learning the language [and] promises to do this in 3 or 4 months. Knowing GRIGORIJ's capabilities [6 groups unrecovered] to allow him a delay here, since, having mastered the language, he could on his return home work at Comrade VETROV's[iii]. To avoid your having to embark on fresh conversations with the COMBINE [KOMBINAT][iv] allow MAKSIM[v] to arrange this business from here through SEROV[vi]. If he does not succeed we will send GRIGORIJ home. We are calculating on fixing up work for GRIGORIJ in the West where he could take lessons [2 groups unrecovered]. Telegraph the answer by the 10th of August.

No. 631

MAY [MAJ][vii]

[Comments overleaf]

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25X1

S/NBF/T275
[2 Pages]

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- 2 -

S/NBF/T275

Comments: [i] VICTOR: possibly Lieutenant-General Pavel Mikhajlovich FITIN.

[ii] GRIGORIJ: not identified. The following references summarise available evidence on his recall:

On 4 July 1944 MAJ observed in a message to MOSCOW: "The COMBINE is about to send home RUBIN, GRIGORIJ and someone else from THE TEN. We assume that this is being done [D% in consultation with you]." [S/NBF/T84].

On 24 October 1944 MAJ asked MOSCOW to sanction the employment of GRIGORIJ in the capacity of technical liaison worker with DICK and BOB. [S/NBF/T79].

On 21 November 1944 MAJ informed MOSCOW that GRIGORIJ had taken on DICK [D% in] technical liaison, and added that [D% before his (GRIGORIJ's) departure] in December he would take on likewise ChEKh (formerly BOB). [S/NBF/T63]. This had been done by 5 December 1944 [see S/NBF/T22, Item 7].

Note that DICK is identified as Bernard SCHUSTER and BOB as Robert Owen MENAKER.

[iii] VETROV: possibly Mikhajl Sergeevich VETROV, who in November 1944 was Acting Head of the 5th (European) Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Some time after her arrival in the United States YuLIYa (Ol'ga Valentinovna KhLOPKOVA) addressed a letter to a Comrade VETROV. In January 1944 this letter was in the possession of KhARON (Grigorij KhEJFETS).

[iv] KOMBINAT: the People's Commissariat of Foreign Trade.

[v] MAKSIM: possibly Vasilij Mikhajlovich ZUBILIN.

[vi] Presumably Mikhajl Vasil'evich SEROV, a member of the Soviet Purchasing Commission in the U.S.A.

[vii] MAJ: Pavel Ivanovich FEDOSIMOV.

W.S. No.: XY-68.1

S/NBF/T275